

**IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**THE ESTATE OF JESSIE LEE  
WILLIAMS, JR., DECEASED, BY  
AND THROUGH HIS NEXT FRIEND  
AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE,  
TERRY WILLIAMS, ADMINISTRATOR,  
OF THE ESTATE OF JESSIE LEE WILLIAMS, JR.**

**PLAINTIFF**

**VS.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:06CV196LG-JMR**

**HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, BY AND  
THROUGH ITS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
ET AL.**

**DEFENDANTS**

**ANSWER AND DEFENSES OF DEFENDANT PAT OLSEN  
TO THE FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Pursuant to the Court's Text Order dated April 24, 2007, Defendant Pat Olsen files her answer and defenses to the First Amended Complaint (Docket #3) and states:

**FIRST DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen moves to dismiss the First Amended Complaint because it fails to state a claim against her upon which relief can be granted.

**SECOND DEFENSE**

**ANSWER**

Defendant Pat Olsen admits that Harrison County, Mississippi is a political subdivision of Mississippi as alleged in ¶ 15; admits that George Payne is the elected sheriff of Harrison County, Mississippi as alleged in ¶ 17; admits that she is an adult citizen of Harrison County, Mississippi and is employed by Health Assurance, LLC as the Health Services Administrator at the Harrison County Adult Detention Center as alleged in ¶ 24; admits that the City of Gulfport is a city in the State of Mississippi and that it may be served in the manner prescribed by the laws of Mississippi as alleged in ¶ 31; admits the Court has jurisdiction over any federal law claims under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343

and has supplemental jurisdiction over any state-law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 as alleged in ¶34; and, admits venue is proper in this court as alleged in ¶ 35.

Defendant Pat Olsen is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the following paragraphs and therefore denies the same: ¶¶1-12, 14, 18-23, 25-33, 39-40, 43, 50, 54-56, 58-59, 81-83, 86-88, and the remaining allegations in ¶¶13, 15, 17, 24, 31.

Defendant Pat Olsen denies each and every other allegation in the First Amended Complaint, to include all claims for relief set forth in the “Prayer For Relief”.

### **THIRD DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen pleads all applicable privileges and immunities under both state and federal law, including but not limited to, the common law and statutory doctrine of sovereign immunity, absolute immunity, and qualified immunity. Defendant Pat Olsen is protected by sovereign, absolute and qualified immunity against suit and against any claims for penalties, damages, attorneys fees, or any other damages as requested in the Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint.

### **FOURTH DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen pleads all applicable immunities, defenses and provisions to which she is entitled under Sections 11-46-1, *et seq.* of the Mississippi Code of 1972, commonly known as the Mississippi Tort Claims Act, including, but not limited to all notice requirements, all exceptions from the waiver of sovereign immunity, all statute of limitations, the right to a bench trial, and all limitations on liability and pain therein.

### **FIFTH DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen owed no duty to the Deceased, Jessie Lee Williams, at the time of the

alleged incident.

**SIXTH DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen pleads the application of Miss. Code Ann. §85-5-7 (1972) and the appropriate apportionment of damages to all parties who may be liable to the Plaintiff in direct proportion to their individual or respective percentage of fault or negligence.

**SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff has failed to plead and will be unable to establish the necessary elements for injunctive relief.

**EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Any alleged injury to Jessie Williams was caused or contributed to by independent, intervening or superseding acts or omissions of others for whose actions the Defendant Pat Olsen has no liability, vicariously or otherwise.

**NINTH DEFENSE**

Any alleged negligence by Defendant Pat Olsen did not proximately cause the damages or injuries alleged in the First Amended Complaint.

**TENTH DEFENSE**

Defendant Pat Olsen is immune from punitive damages.

**ELEVENTH DEFENSE**

The claim for slander does not survive death.

**TWELFTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages under Mississippi law violates the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article 3, Sections 14, 23, 26, 28 and 31 of the Mississippi Constitution because, inter alia, (a) the standard

for the award of punitive damages is so vague and indefinite that it does not give defendant adequate notice of the kind of conduct for which she may be liable for punitive damages or the extent of her possible liability; (b) the jury is not provided with standards of sufficient clarity, objectivity, and uniformity for determining either the appropriateness or the appropriate size of punitive damages; (c) the jury is not instructed on the limits of punitive damages awards imposed by the applicable principles of punishment and deterrence; (d) the jury is not expressly prohibited from awarding punitive damages, or determining the amount of an award of punitive damages, in whole or in part, on the basis of invidiously discriminatory characteristics; (e) the jury is permitted to award punitive damages under standards for determining liability for, and the amount of, punitive damages that are vague and arbitrary and which do not define with sufficient clarity the culpable conduct or mental state that makes an award of punitive damages permissible; (f) an award of punitive damages is not subject to appellate review on the basis of objective and uniform standards; (g) the procedures applicable to the imposition of punitive damages would permit an award of multiple punitive damages for the same act or omission; (h) the procedures used by Mississippi courts, and the guidelines given to the jurors, jointly and separately, are vague and, therefore, (1) impermissibly delegate to jurors policy matter, (2) impermissibly allow jurors broad, unlimited and undefined power to make determinations on their notions of what the law should be instead of what it is, and (3) fail to eliminate the effects of, and to guard against, impermissible juror passion; and (I) present Mississippi law does not provide a meaningful opportunity for challenging the rational basis for, and any excessiveness of, any award of punitive damages.

### **THIRTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages under Mississippi law is unconstitutional under the Mississippi Constitution Article 3, Section 32, because the claim impairs the inherent and natural

right of the Defendant to conduct a lawful business absent from the perils and extortionate demands and threats that this punitive damage claim poses. On that basis, the claim also violates the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 3, Section 17 of the Mississippi Constitution. Said punitive claim likewise violates Mississippi Constitution Article 3 Section 28.

And now having responded to the First Amended Complaint, Defendant Pat Olsen asks that all claims against her be dismissed with prejudice and costs be assessed against the Plaintiff.

This the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

**PAT OLSEN**

*s/ Robert H. Pedersen*

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Robert H. Pedersen, as counsel for the defendants Health Assurance, LLC and Pat Olsen hereby certify that I have this day electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system which sent notification of such filing to the following:

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THIS, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2007.

*s/ Robert H. Pedersen*

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